ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter

Number 67. July, 1995.

A SWEET TIME IN HERSHEY!

We couldn't have asked for a more successful convention than our latest in Chocolate Land, Pa. The weather was ideal, the setting conducive to good times, and the program appealing to one and all. If you're statistically-minded, here are some figures to give you an idea of the new levels we reached: Our turnout was 130 members, spouses and guests (a 30% increase over past years); First-time conventioneers were 35 strong, again a record number; Our Silent Auction sales were $18,000, resulting in ISASC proceeds of $1,800 (a gain of 50% over past years); and our overall bottom line showed a profit of $1,100. In addition, our literature sales amounted to $775, and we realized a net return of $2,000 on the Colker collection that was bequeathed to us (more on that later).

Aside from the statistics, we owe our deep thanks to speakers Laird Park, Bud Clark, John Corfield, and Diana Crawforth-Hitchins, as well as to Convention Committee members Bill Doniger, Steve Ginsberg, and Peggy Daniels, who gave of their time in various ways to make sure everything went off smoothly. And, of course, our special thanks go to one and all who came, and particularly to those members who made their way to Hershey from Canada, Europe, and Australia. For those who couldn't be with us, we're enclosing a convention program that describes all that went on and that just might be worth keeping as a souvenir. (over)

NOW FOR 1996.

Memories of '95 notwithstanding, we're already planning next year's conclave in New Orleans, which just may exceed the records set this year. The dates are Thursday, May 30, to Sunday, June 2, and the host hotel is the famed Monteleone in New Orleans' fabled French Quarter. We'll have more to tell you in our October mailing and as we reach the new year, but meantime, mark your calendar to make sure you'll be with us. Our program chairman is Joe Lenorovitz, and now's as good a time as any to report that the convention questionnaires Joe distributed to members a few months ago resulted in a big response and a number of good ideas that Joe intends to incorporate into the '96 program.

BIG, BIG, BIBLIOGRAPHY NEWS.

The moment has arrived, and we're pleased (dare we say thrilled?), to announce that after three years of dedicated effort by Eric and Judy Soslau, ISASC's Bibliography of Weighing Instruments is finished and about to come off press. To try and describe all the hard work and talent that Eric and Judy put into it most likely would double the length of this newsletter. Suffice it to say that this new publication is a breakthrough contribution to the field of metrology, and the first bibliography to mainly pertain to scales, rather than weights and measures. To learn more about it, note the first description in the enclosed library list, and to learn even more, take a moment to review the four sample pages enclosed (two pages, two sides). Our initial printing will be 400 copies, with 300 being retained for sale to our N/A Chapter members and 100

going to the Euro-Chapter for its members. We also expect a number of libraries and institutions to buy a copy, so we can only urge you to purchase yours now. The price is a mere $20 and we've enclosed a handy order card to make your acquisition easy.

ANOTHER BIG, BIG BENEFIT.

Up 'til a year or so ago, every member of ISASC had been given a copy of our chronological EQM Index, which listed articles in every EQM from 1978 through 1989. Then we ran out of copies. At that point, we decided that rather than reprint the piece and continue our practice of giving it to new members, we would update it through 1994 and give the current edition to all members. We're pleased to report that the update's been done, the new Index printed, and your copy enclosed with this mailing. We suggest you look through it, and if you note any articles from back issues that you'd like, simply use the enclosed library list/order form to order the appropriate issue(s).

... AND A FULL COLOR BONUS.

In the minds of some collectors, certain postal scales rightfully fall into the category of art objects, and your president, if pressed, would agree with that assessment. So it didn't take much persuasion when we were approached in early 1994 by a prominent consulting firm and invited to have certain of our scales featured in the firm's magazine.

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The invitation having been accepted, the inevitable next steps included selecting the scales to show (not easy, with several hundred to choose from), cleaning and polishing them (ugh), photographing them (a day and a half with an "imported" photographer), and writing an abbreviated history of today's postal system, along with photo captions. The end result, we think you'll agree, made it all worthwhile, and your own personal copy of the magazine is enclosed. POSTSCRIPT: The publication's art director turned down our offer to provide a "final proofreading," and consequently, two photo captions contain what we would call "inaccuracies." If you are able to detect them, call us and we'll verify that you qualify as a metrology expert.

ENDOWMENT FUND GETS UNDERWAY.

We told you earlier that sales of scales from the Colker collection netted us $2,000. However, it also should be noted that even though we sold a good number, approximately 30 are still in our possession to sell in the future, which should substantially increase our total proceeds. It's important that we acknowledge this gift, not only to thank Dave Colker for his generosity, but to let every member know that the proceeds from the Colker gift will be used as the initial contribution to our newly-established Endowment Fund. It's our hope that this gift will impel other members--in time--to dispose of their collections in similar fashion, thereby enabling our Endowment Fund to grow and strengthen the financial under-pinnings of our Society.

ABOUT OUR VICE PRESIDENTS ...

Joe Lenorovitz is knee-deep in plans for our 1996 convention in New Orleans, and you're sure to be hearing about the fruits of his labor in the months ahead;

Ruth Willard is deeply involved with several members about to be cast in the role of authors. To quote Ruth, "We're on the threshold of a nice series of articles by American members ..."

Dale Goldman tells us that her first production, most likely before the end of this year, will be a retrospective of Fairbanks catalogs. (Dale happens to have the finest collection of Fairbanks catalogs this side of the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury.)

POTPOURRI.

** This coming November, an auction featuring an exceptional scale collection will be held in New York City. We've been given announcements to distribute to our members (yours is enclosed), and all you need do to receive a complimentary catalog is contact the auction house. The next move is yours.

** We're happy to report that George Mallis, a long-standing member and ISASC booster, is recovering from a serious heart attack. George is a prominent authority (and author) on coin scales, counterfeit coin detectors, and coin weights, and has been a regular contributor to EQM. In the past, George has endured other physical setbacks, so we're especially glad to learn that he's back on the road to better health.

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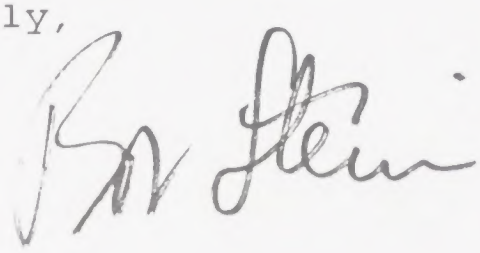
** A while back, the mails brought us a letter from antique dealer (Mrs.) Dagmar House, offering six scales (postal, hide, utility, precision, etc.) at prices ranging from $16 to $125 (all six for $300). We talked to Mrs. House and told her we'd pass on her offer to our members. If you're interested, please contact her direct at 1336 Reed St., Coatsville, PA 19320; phone 610/384-9360.

** As an aid to quick-and-easy communication, Judy Soslau thinks it would be worthwhile to compile a list of our members who subscribe to Internet and have an e-mail address. Judy's agreed to put the list together, and is asking members with an e-mail address to let her know they're interested and will participate. Judy's e-mail address is: judyloon @aol.com (all lowercase and no spaces).

** We just received a letter from San Diego member Jerry Wilson telling us that Wolfgang and Ingrid Schilde, Euro-Chapter members from Berlin, recently completed a U.S. cross-country vacation with a stayover in San Diego. The upshot was a mini-convention at the Wilson home, with the guest list comprising the Schildes, Dale Goldman, who brought some goodies to the party, and Jack Young (Wolfgang's friend of some years), whose home -- and collection -- everyone also visited. As Jerry put it, "We gathered for fun, and had lots of it!"

AND SO ...

We'll say so-long for now, with the promise that you'll be hearing from us again in October.

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